

Meeting of the Commission
January 30, 2013
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee
Nabi Fakroddin
Rozanne Ronen
David J. Walsh (Via telephone)
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

Marylee V. Freeman

Staff

Keith N. Chambers
Michael J. Evans
Reva Bauch
LaNade Bridges
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Bricia Herrera

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Human Rights Commission

En Banc Minutes – January 30, 2013
Page 2 of 5

Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On January 30, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Freeman gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray, that she would be unable to be present for the January 30, 2013 meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Walsh gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would be unable to be physically present at the meeting. Commissioner Walsh requested to participate via telephone. A motion to allow Commissioner Walsh to participate via telephone was made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 10-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

December 12, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2012, meeting as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Cosgrove and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 11-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported on the Channel 2 News/Better Government Association ("BGA") interview that was conducted on January 16, 2013. After they filmed part of the Panel B meeting, Chairman Castro was interviewed by the BGA in Executive Director Chambers' office. The edited interview aired on Channel 2 News that evening.

The Chairman reported that he attended a Bill signing for immigrant drivers. The Bill would allow undocumented individuals to obtain a Illinois driver's license.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Human Rights Commission

En Banc Minutes – January 30, 2013
Page 3 of 5

The Chairman announced that he and Executive Director Chambers will be attending the Illinois State of the State address in Springfield in February.

Chairman Castro announced that the next *En Banc* meeting would be held in Springfield, Illinois.

Chairman Castro and the Commissioners agreed to extend an invitation to Alderman Joe Moore of the Chicago City Council, who is also Chairman of the City Council Committee on Human Relations, to attend the Commission's March 2013 *En Banc* meeting.

Chairman Castro announced the passing of former Commissioner James Maloof. A brief moment of silence was had to acknowledge his passing. The Chairman stated he would send a letter of condolence to the Maloof family on behalf of the Commission.

IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers indicated that in addition to the letter of condolence, the Commission would post a notice regarding Commissioner Maloof's passing and his past Commission service on the Commission's website for 30 days.

Mr. Chambers reported that following the February 27, 2013 *en banc* meeting in Springfield, Commissioners would have an opportunity to meet with members of the General Assembly to discuss the Commission's budget challenges.

Mr. Chambers reported that the BGA article had nothing to do with the Commission's budget challenges. Mr. Chambers further reported that following the publication of the BGA's article on the Commission, he received several inquiries from members of the General Assembly regarding Commissioner term expiration dates.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Commission's Annual Report was complete and was posted on the Commission's website.

Mr. Chambers announced that there are currently two vacancies in the Commission's Administrative Law Section.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Governor's Office of Management and Budget ("GOMB") flatlined the Commission's budget based on the Commission's FY13 budget. Therefore, the Commission is operating in a deficit mode.

Mr. Chambers further announced that he and Chairman Castro will meet with Jerry Stermer of the GOMB. Chairman Castro and Mr. Chambers will discuss the Commission's budget needs with Mr. Stermer.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Human Rights Commission

En Banc Minutes – January 30, 2013
Page 4 of 5

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission must stay within the FY13 budget because the Commission is in a \$50,000.00 deficit.

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission has not paid wages that it owes to Commission staff that is unionized.

Dr. Ewa reported that the position for the ALJ vacancies has been posted.

Dr. Ewa informed the Commissioners they can be reimbursed for travel expenses to meet in Springfield. Dr. Ewa will send out instructions for submitting reimbursement vouchers at a later date.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section's statistics for the month of December 2012.

Judge Evans advised the Commission that the Commission is down three Administrative Law Judges. Judge Evans further advised the Commission that morale is low among the ALJs and the Commission must address the issue of ALJ salaries to prevent Commission staff from leaving the Commission.

D. Donyelle L. Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray advised the Commissioners up upcoming deadlines for submissions of their Statements of Economic Interest. Ms. Gray also advised that 2013 Ethics Training materials would be distributed shortly, and that the training was mandatory.

Ms. Gray reminded the Commissioners that several of their terms expired as of January 21st, and Director Chambers, the Chairman, and the Governor's office have been apprised of this situation. Ms. Gray stated that if the terms were not renewed, the Commission's ability to function relative to holding both panel and *en banc* meetings would be severely disrupted.

Ms. Gray announced that she and Assistant General Counsel Mora will be conducting interviews for Coles Fellow at the Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference at Northwestern Law School on Saturday February 2nd.

Ms. Gray also had the Commission's three Spring Coles Fellows introduce themselves to the Commissioners: Aja Carr, Ruth Dordoe, and Michelle Prasad. Commissioners and staff welcomed the Fellows.

V. New Business

None

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Human Rights Commission

En Banc Minutes – January 30, 2013
Page 5 of 5

VII. Executive Session

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m. Motion made by Chairman Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Yadgir. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel